



Department of Medical Assistance Services
600 East Broad Street, Suite 1300
Richmond, Virginia 23219

www.dmas.virginia.gov

MEDICAID MEMO

TO: All State Mental Hospitals, Long Stay Hospitals, Skilled Nursing Home Mental Health Facilities, Medical Surgery Facilities serving the Mentally Retarded, Skilled Nursing Homes, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Long Stay Inpatient Hospitals, Mental Health Medical Surgery Facilities, and Intermediate Care Facilities participating in the Virginia Medicaid Program

FROM: Patrick W. Finnerty, Director
Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)

MEMO: Special
DATE: 6/26/2007

SUBJECT: Increase in the Personal Needs Allowance for Institutionalized Individuals Residing in Nursing Facilities and in Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded (ICF-MR) – Effective July 1, 2007

As directed by the 2007 Appropriation Act, the personal needs allowance for institutionalized individuals residing in nursing facilities and in ICF-MRs is being increased from \$30 to \$40 per month. This change will be effective July 1, 2007.

The local departments of social services will begin issuing DMAS-122's to providers in June 2007 to reflect the change in eligibility policy. This increase may mean a reduction in the amount of patient-pay that individuals must contribute to the cost of their own care. The change in the allowance will affect only individuals that have income to support the increase.

ELIGIBILITY AND CLAIMS STATUS INFORMATION

DMAS offers a web-based Internet option (ARS) to access information regarding Medicaid or FAMIS eligibility, claims status, check status, service limits, prior authorization, and pharmacy prescriber identification. The website address to use to enroll for access to this system is <http://virginia.fhsc.com>. The MediCall voice response system will provide the same information and can be accessed by calling 1-800-884-9730 or 1-800-772-9996. Both options are available at no cost to the provider.

“HELPLINE”

The “HELPLINE” is available to answer questions Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except on state holidays. The “HELPLINE” numbers are:

1-804-786-6273	Richmond area and out-of-state long distance
1-800-552-8627	All other areas (in-state, toll-free long distance)

Please remember that the “HELPLINE” is for provider use only. Please have your Medicaid Provider Identification Number available when you call.

COPIES OF MANUALS

DMAS publishes electronic and printable copies of its Provider Manuals and Medicaid Memoranda on the DMAS website at www.dmas.virginia.gov. Refer to the “DMAS Content Menu” column on the left-hand side of the DMAS web page for the “Provider Services” link, which takes you to the “Manuals, Memos and Communications” link. This link opens up a page that contains all of the various communications to providers, including Provider Manuals and Medicaid Memoranda. The Internet is the most efficient means to receive and review current provider information. If you do not have access to the Internet or would like a paper copy of a manual, you can order it by contacting Commonwealth-Martin at 1-804-780-0076. A fee will be charged for the printing and mailing of the manuals and manual updates that are requested.

PROVIDER E-NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

DMAS is pleased to inform providers about the creation of a new Provider E-Newsletter. The intent of this electronic newsletter is to inform, communicate, and share important program information with providers. Covered topics will include changes in claims processing, common problems with billing, new programs or changes in existing programs, and other information that may directly affect providers. If you would like to receive the electronic newsletter, please sign up at www.dmas.virginia.gov/pr-newsletter.asp.

Please note that the Provider E-Newsletter is not intended to take the place of Medicaid Memos, Medicaid Provider Manuals, or any other official correspondence from DMAS.